

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 PM-03 DODE-00 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 L-01 H-01 MC-01 /045 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/CAR:GBHIGH:KK

APPROVED BY EUR/NE:JCROWLEY

EUR/NE:WBUELL (SUBSTANCE)

PM/ISO:MPASZTALANIEC (DRAFT)

DOD:SFRENCH:PSANJUAN (DRAFT)

ARA/CAR:JRBURKE (DRAFT)

----- 059213

P R 062122Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 050671

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, UK, AV, SC, RQ

SUBJECT: DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL

1. BRITISH EMBASSY OFFICERS (MINISTER SYKES, SAMUEL, WALKER) MET WITH STATE (BUELL, CROWLEY, PASZTALANIEC, HIGH) AND DOD (FRENCH, SANJUAN, JENKINS) REPRESENTATIVES ON MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS DOG ISLAND PROPOSAL.

2. SYKES MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

--HMG IS UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH USG ON DOG ISLAND WEAPONS RANGE PROPOSAL PRIOR TO SETTLEMENT OF POLITICAL PROBLEM BETWEEN ANGUILLA AND ST. KITTS.

--WHILE THERE MAY BE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THAT DISPUTE IN COMING MONTH (SEE BELOW), THESE ARE UNLIKELY
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TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND HMG CANNOT CONTEMPLATE JULY 1,

1975 AS REALISTIC DEADLINE FOR REACHING DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT WITH USG ON USE OF DOG ISLAND.

--IN VIEW OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES, HMG IS UNWILLING TO RECEIVE NEGOTIATING TEAM IN WHICH PUERTO RICO IS

REPRESENTED BECAUSE: A) HMG HAS NOTHING NEW TO SAY ON OVERRIDING POLITICAL PROBLEM; AND B) HMG CANNOT COMMIT ITSELF TO ACTION BY JULY 1--BOTH IMPORTANT POINTS TO PUERTO RICO.

--HOWEVER, HMG WOULD BE WILLING TO HOLD DISCUSSIONS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE WITH USG (DOD AND STATE) ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF PROPOSAL. THESE TALKS COULD COVER TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS AND THE MODALITIES OF LEASING (HMG PREFERS DIRECT USG-HMG AGREEMENT) AND WOULD BE EXPLORATORY WITHOUT COMMITTING EITHER SIDE.

--CONFIDENTIAL NATURE IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF REPERCUSSIONS TALKS COULD HAVE ON HMG DEALINGS WITH ANGUILLA AND ST. KITTS AND, IN WIDER CONTEXT, ON OTHER DEPENDENT AND INDEPENDENT ISLANDS IN CARIBBEAN.

3. EXPANDING ON NATURE OF UNRESOLVED PROBLEM OF STATUS OF ANGUILLA, SYKES EXPLAINED THAT TALKS IN LONDON WITH ST. KITTS PREMIER BRADSHAW IN EARLY FEBRUARY WERE NOT UNSATISFACTORY, BUT THEY WERE INCONCLUSIVE AND PROGRESS IS SLOW. BRADSHAW IS TO GIVE BRITISH A "PACKAGE PROPOSAL," WHICH HE DID NOT DEFINE, AROUND MID-MARCH, AND THIS MAY LEAD TO HMG MEETING WITH ANGUILLA COUNCIL LEADER WEBSTER IN APRIL. BRITISH FEEL THAT BRADSHAW MAY HAVE COME TO REALIZATION THAT ANGUILLA CANNOT BE REINCORPORATED INTO ST. KITTS, AND THIS IN TIME MAY LEAD TO POLITICAL SOLUTION. SYKES ESTIMATED THAT THERE WAS LITTLE LIKELIHOOD OF ANGUILLA EVER RETURNING TO THE ASSOCIATED STATE OF ST. KITTS, NEVIS, ANGUILLA.

4. RESPONDING TO SYKES' EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER SENSITIVITY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH USG, FRENCH ASSURED HIM OF OUR INTENTION TO RESPECT NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONFIDENTIAL

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OF DOD DESIRE FOR TECHNICAL TALKS IN LONDON. BUELL STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF HANDLING OUR CONTACTS WITH PUERTO RICO SATISFACTORILY BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PROBLEM THERE, THE INTEREST OF MANY INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF US HOUSE AND SENATE, AND IMPORTANCE OF MATTER TO GOCPR. SUGGESTION MADE TO SYKES THAT WE INFORM PUERTO RICAN OFFICIALS (AND THE BRITISH THE ANGUILLANS) THAT VERY CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS ARE BEING HELD BETWEEN USG AND HMG ON POSSIBLE

USE OF DOG ISLAND. BECAUSE OF DIFFICULT POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THIS MATTER THESE HAVE TO REMAIN HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL LEST EFFORTS TO OBTAIN USE OF DOG ISLAND BE PREJUDICED. SYKES UNDERTOOK TO OBTAIN HMG VIEWS ON THIS SUGGESTION.

5. RESULTS OF THIS MARCH 3 MEETING WERE:

--SYKES IS TO INFORM BRITISH OF OUR REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL MEETING OF DOD TEAM IN LONDON WITH FCO AND DEFENSE MINISTRY ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS APPROXIMATELY MARCH 18, 19 OR 20, OR PERHAPS MORE CONVENIENTLY DURING THE FOLLOWING WEEK OF MARCH 25.

--SYKES IS TO SEEK HMG VIEWS ON POSTURE TO BE ADOPTED WITH AUTHORITIES IN ANGUILLA AND PUERTO RICO.

--US SIDE SUGGESTED TEAM MIGHT BE RECEIVED AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL (SYKES SUGGESTED POSSIBILITY OF MEETING WITH DUNCAN WATSON) AND PARTICIPATION AT SIMILAR LEVEL FROM DEFENSE MINISTRY.

6. FOR LONDON. DEPT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF EMBASSY FOLLOWED UP THIS REQUEST AT APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL IN FCO AS INDICATION OF IMPORTANCE USG GIVES TO THIS MATTER. INGERSOLL

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